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**Grace Meng**

**Congress of the United States**

**Sixth District, New York**

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**REGIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE

June 22, 2023

The Honorable Louis DeJoy  
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy,

I write to respectfully request the United States Postal Service (USPS), as part of its newly announced Joint Project Safe Delivery initiative, prioritize Queens, New York. As you know, Queens has become victim to incessant mail theft in the past three years. After repeatedly calling on the USPS to address this crisis in my district, I was pleased to learn the USPS and the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) are expanding actions to protect our nation's mail.

According to the USPS, the Joint Project Safe Delivery initiative will reduce mail theft and letter carrier robberies through updated electronic locks, a plan to reduce counterfeit postage, and increased security for blue collection boxes. I commend the USPS and the USPIS for these initial steps in improving mail security, however, the plan does not specify if these security upgrades would be made available for green relay boxes.

As you know, the USPS utilizes green relay boxes, unique to densely populated urban areas, to help postal carriers manage the distribution of letters. These relay boxes are essential to the delivery of mail in my district, yet they remain susceptible to theft. In 2022, there were over 1,000 instances of mail theft reported to the USPS by my constituents, totaling nearly half a million in lost mail with none of it recovered. These losses are devastating for the Queens community, not only is money and other valuables lost, but identities are stolen and important medications are never received.

In light of this, as the USPS continues to increase efforts to crack down on mail theft, I encourage you to prioritize communities in Queens and the inclusion of secure green relay boxes in your response initiative. I also urge the USPS to continue to update the public on the steps included in the Joint Project Safe Delivery and provide more detailed updates on its progress to combat mail theft. I thank the USPS for escalating steps to combat mail theft in the country, but I assure you, more needs to be done to restore my constituent's trust in the postal system.

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I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Dinegar of my staff ([Tom.Dinegar@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tom.Dinegar@mail.house.gov)). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grace Meng", with a stylized, flowing script.

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress